

Message Text

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EI
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN

1. ALTHOUGH DELIBERATELY PLANNED AS A LOW-KEY, OFF THE RECORD VISIT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EUR) LOWENSTEIN'S VISIT TO DUBLIN STIRRED UP CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, ANOTHER BIT OF EVIDENCE THAT MORE AND MORE IRISH ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF AND TAKING AN INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THIS ONCE MOST INSULAR OF ISLANDS.

2. LOWENSTEIN HAD LUNCH ON MONDAY, FEB. 10, WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PAUL KEATING (FORNMIN FITZGERALD WAS IN BRUSSELS), SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VICE-PRES. CHARLES MCDONALD AND OTHERS, HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR CURLEY. THE CONVERSATION COVERED A WIDE RANGE: NORTHERN IRELAND, THE FUTURE OF THE EC, US POLITICS, EUROPEAN SECURITY AND CSCE, ANGOLA, DETENTE, ETC. BOTH KEATING AND O'KENNEDY STRESSED THE POINT, WHICH CAME UP OFTEN AT OTHER SESSIONS DURING THE VISIT, THAT THE IRISH WERE NOT AT ALL PLEASED AT THE US INITIATIVES OR ACQUIESCE IN ARRANGING CONFERENCES OF ONLY PART OF THE EC, E.G. RAMBOUILLET.

3. IN THE EVENING OF FEB. 10 LOWENSTEIN ADDRESSED AN INVITED GROUP AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, AND THE TURNOUT WAS EXTRAORDINARY. THE SHORT (OFF-THE-RECORD) ADDRESS WAS A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF CURRENT US FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY OUR POLICY VIS-A-VIS EUROPE. AFTER THE ADDRESS THERE WAS A LENGTHY QUESTION SESSION.

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ALTHOUGH ONLY 90 WERE INVITED, 220 SHOWED UP; AND WAS

THE LARGEST ASSEMBLAGE OF WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED IRELAND'S SMALL FOREIGN POLICY ELITE WHICH ANYONE CAN REMEMBER. FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CAME VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE KEY OFFICERS IN TOWN, AMONG THEM ACTING FONMIN PAUL KEATING, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES DORR AND DONLON, HALF-A-DOZEN COUNSELORS INCLUDING PADDY MCKERNAN (IN CHARGE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS INTER ALIA), AND QUITE A SPRINKLING OF YOUNGER FIRST SECRETARIES. MOST OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTIES FROM DUBLIN'S TWO UNIVERSITIES (TRINITY AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES) WERE PRESENT, AS WELL AS TWELVE OF IRELAND'S TOP POLITICAL REPORTERS, A NUMBER OF HISTORIANS AND WRITERS, SEVERAL OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND ABOUT 40 STUDENTS. WITH THIS AUDIENCE THE ATTENTION WAS CLOSE AND THE EXCHANGE WAS LIVELY, THOUGH FRIENDLY. THE INTEREST WAS VERY HIGH, AND REPORTS FROM PERSONS ATTENDING A SEMI-ORGANIZED CAUCAS IN THE FACULTY COMMON ROOM AFTERWARDS INDICATED THAT LOWENSTEIN'S REMARKS WERE NOT ONLY WELL RECEIVED BUT THAT THE CAUCAS DISSECTED AND ANALYZED HIS REMARKS WELL INTO THE LATE HOURS.

4. FEBRUARY 11, LOWENSTEIN HAD A LONG SESSION WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR NOEL DORR, AND THEN DISCUSSED NORTHERN IRELAND WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEAN DONLON AND CONSUL GENERAL PETER SPICER FROM AMCONGEN BELFAST WHO WAS VISITING IN DUBLIN. OF NOTE FROM THE CONVERSATION WITH DORR WAS THE CURIOUS NOTION, WHICH DORR SAID IS GOING THE ROUNDS OF THE EC, THAT THE USG HAD SOMEHOW PROMPTED THE SECTION IN THE TINDEMANS REPORT WHICH URGED THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CONSULT WITH THE US. LOWENSTEIN ASSURED HIM THAT NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. INDEED, HE TOLD DORR, WE HAD NO INPUT AT ALL TO THE TINDEMANS REPORT AS WE CONSIDERED THIS WAS EUROPE'S BUSINESS, NOT OURS.

5. IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 11, MR. LOWENSTEIN ACCOMPANIED ME TO A RECEPTION FOR E. O'HEARN, MCCANN ERICKSON DIRECTOR IN EUROPE, AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARLES MURRAY, GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK, DESMOND RYAN, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION

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TION OF IRISH INDUSTRIES AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF P.J. CARROLL, GEORGE GRACIE, DIRECTOR OF ARTHUR GUINNESS, T.J. BARRY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF JOHNSON AND JOHNSON, R.E. BARKLEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF COCA COLA, MARTIN O'DONOGHUE, PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT TRINITY UNIVERSITY, AND OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE IRISH BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

6. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF MR. LOWENSTEIN WAS THE FIRST BY A STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL TO IRELAND IN SEVERAL YEARS. IT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE EMBASSY, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THE MANY OTHERS WHO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIM. THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT WAS A TRIBUTE TO THE SKILL AND HARD WORK OF MR. LOWENSTEIN. IT ALSO INDICATES THAT WE CAN PROFIT FROM MORE OF SUCH VISITS IN THE FUTURE.

CURLEY

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